

Remarks:

1. Claims 1, 4-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okazaki et al. US 5,915,416.
 - a. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitation of “wherein said rib may be deformable such that the ball may be pressed through the rib into the location between the rib and the valve seat”. The cited references do not teach this limitation
 - b. Claims 4-6 depend directly from currently amended claim 1 and for at least the reasons cited in 2(a) above, applicants contend that they are in condition for allowance.
 - c. Claim 8 has been canceled.
 - d. Claims 9-11 depend directly from currently amended claim 7 and for at least the reasons cited in 1(a) above, applicants contend that they are in condition for allowance.
2. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okazaki et al. US 5,915,416 in view of Teranishi US 5,282,329.
 - a. Claim 2 depends directly from claim and therefore, for at least the reasons cited above, is in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/783,567

Amdt. Dated *26-Jun-2006*

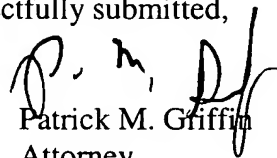
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date:

26-Jun-2006